

## THE HARD FACTS OF LIVING

**DISTURBING** evidence of the extra financial burdens borne by families with chronically sick or disabled people has been revealed in a new Spastics Society survey.

The investigation confirms that in spite of the many and varied allowances, rising food prices, increased rent and rates, higher charges for gas, electricity, fares and petrol, are hitting the handicapped harder than anyone else in the community.

On page 2 of Spastics News you can read some of the interviews. They have a common theme — going without — going without those very ordinary everyday things that able-bodied working people take for granted.

A proper dinner every day instead of every other day, some new clothes to wear, an occasional evening out — none of these seems very much to ask. But for families with a handicapped person, all of whom have higher than average living expenses, these things have become unattainable luxuries, and the struggle to maintain normality becomes harder every day.

The 76-year-old mother doing the washing by hand for her doubly incontinent 45-year-old son because she can't afford a washing machine . . .

The 30-year-old woman in a wheelchair, living alone, frightened of the central heating bills and having to borrow money from the home help to pay for the shopping . . .

The elderly blind wife who pushes her spastic husband in his wheelchair with him guiding her with his foot — in order to save the cost of petrol . . .

This is the reality of handicap today, in spite of all the talk about integration with the rest of the community.

## Blissful trip to Canada for Louise



## Waiting to hear from 732,000...

WITH cuts in The Spastics Society's budget totalling nearly £1½ million and an urgent need for funds, this year's Summer Appeal is of even greater importance. The two annual postal appeals play a major part in bringing in Society income.

The last Christmas Appeal was the most successful ever grossing over £1 million.

Unlike the Christmas Appeal which is sent to the general public the Summer Appeal is sent to regular supporters. It was mailed on May 7 with the "London Landmarks" first day cover and the 10p stamp depicting Buckingham Palace.

"It was sent to 732,000 supporters," said John Rowe, Head of Appeals Projects. "Our target is £270,000 and we hope to get it back over an eight-week period."

So far the Appeals Department has found the response encouraging.

### Summer fun

MIDSUMMER'S Day is to be celebrated in East Sussex by a fund-raising afternoon on Northiam Playing Fields. This year the longest day falls on a Saturday and to mark it the Northiam Holiday Fund for local spastics is arranging contests and displays.

THIS month Louise Penney sets off for Winnipeg and the 1980 World Congress of Rehabilitation International to demonstrate her skill with Blissymbolics. A pupil at the Society's Craig-y-Parc school, where she is one of 10 users of the system, she is going with speech therapist Mrs Ena Davies.

Here Louise, who is 11 and has virtually no speech but can communicate with Bliss at almost the same rate as the spoken word after just one year, demonstrates her skill to her class teacher and deputy headmaster John James and Mrs Davies.

## Spastics News is back...

A NATIONAL dispute in the printing industry stopped production of the May issue of Spastics News. We apologise to readers and advertisers, but we are sure they will understand that the circumstances were entirely outside our control.

It is unfortunate that the dispute, which stopped the May issue, came so soon after an earlier industrial dispute which halted production of the March issue of the newspaper.

### Your subs

Subscribers who order Spastics News on a yearly basis will, of course, have their subscriptions extended so that they receive the number of issues they have paid for.

The Editor would like to thank all the readers who telephoned, or wrote from home and abroad, to inquire about their missing copies of Spastics News, and when the situation was explained, offered their good wishes for a quick settlement of the dispute and an early return of the paper.

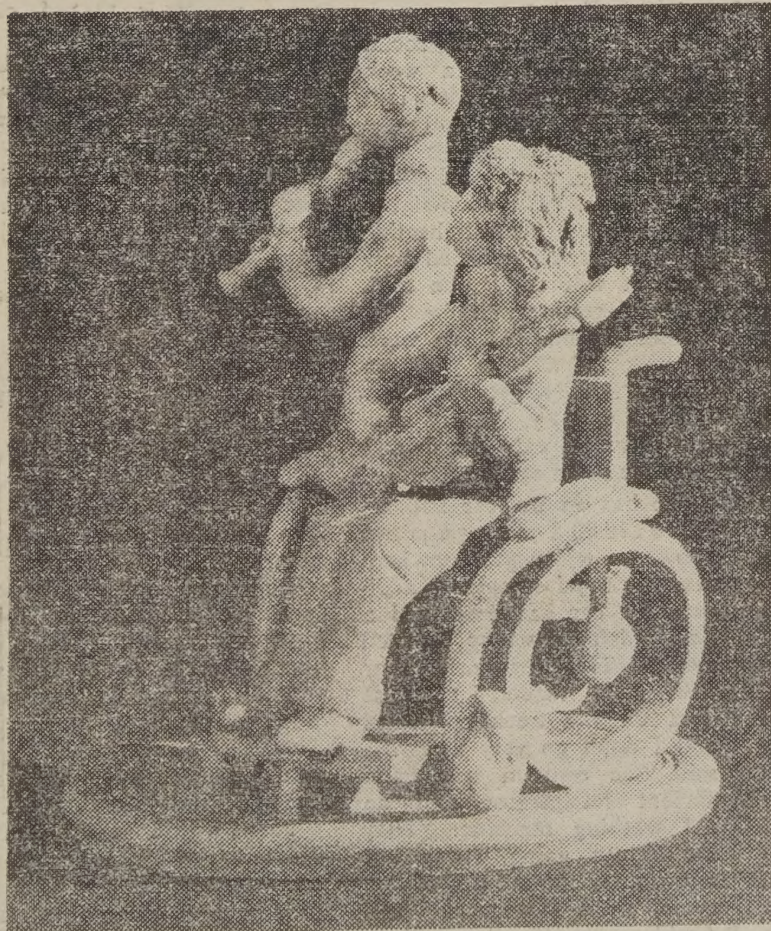
We are glad you missed us . . . and we are glad to be back.

## Crafts bring cash for children

"CERAMICS for Children at Cheyne" was the title of a recent highly successful exhibition at Fairfield Hall, Croydon. Over 60 craftsmen and women potters donated examples of their work, which was sold at prices ranging from £2.50 to £200.

Not for sale but very much on show was this specially commissioned ceramic by Hilary Brock depicting two children, one in a wheelchair, both playing musical instruments.

The exhibition, which was supported by the Crafts Council of Great Britain, was organised by the Companions of Cheyne Hospital, West Wickham, in order to raise funds for improved facilities for the physically and mentally handicapped children who are long-stay residents there, some of whom have no family contacts.



## Do YOU know Kenneth Jones?

A SEVERELY spastic long-stay patient at Purdown Hospital, Bristol, Kenneth Jones, is trying to trace his surviving relatives. Fifty-eight-year-old Kenneth cannot walk or feed himself, and his speech is, according to

a fellow patient, "like a clapped out old radio." But ever since Kenneth acquired a Possum typewriter in 1976, he has longed to be able to correspond with a member of his family, or indeed with any of his former

friends in the Barnardo's homes at Tunbridge Wells and at Woodford Bridge, where he spent most of his childhood.

The first thing Kenneth did when he got his new Possum was to write his biography, and the story

behind this is strongly reminiscent of the experiences of another longstay spastic patient, Joey Deacon from St Lawrence's Hospital, Caterham, whose book "Tongue Tied," has been translated into many foreign languages and was

Continued on Page 12

## The Newton 1b Shrinker



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# THE COSTLY BURDEN OF HANDICAP

## True stories of life in the poverty trap

... see lead story page 1

### 'I watch every penny...

MRS T. is 76 years of age and lives in Essex. She has been looking after her severely handicapped son, Len, for 45 years. He cannot walk or dress himself and is completely dependent on her. Her husband, who is a retired metal foundry worker, with no pension, recently suffered two severe strokes and is himself now somewhat handicapped.

The family receives an income of £39.25 per week which consists of social security, an attendance allowance and a mobility allowance for Len, plus £50.92 in old age pension and supplementary benefits.

Their rented council house costs £15.41 a week (it was recently increased by £3.00 a week) and the water rate which must now be paid by Mrs T. costs £23.90 a year.

Heating and electricity are a big drain on their incomes at £10.00 a week, as Len feels the cold intensely because of his poor circulation. Mrs T. tries to economise here by collecting logs in the park and bringing them home on Len's wheelchair.

She spends £20.00 a week on food and cleaning materials. She is faced with an enormous quantity of washing because Len sometimes soils his bed, and she finds the cost of washing powder and disinfectant a heavy item of expense. Although she eats little herself, she provides the cheaper cuts of meat for Len and her husband. Mrs T. cannot afford a washing machine and scrubs everything by hand on a washing board.

Len, however, is very heavy on clothes. He needs specially large shirts and these cost £12.00. Her only pleasure is the television which costs her £3.00 a month to rent. The telephone is essential to her. The council installed it free but refused to pay the rental.

Mrs T. lives in constant fear of getting into debt. "I have to watch every penny and sometimes I go from shop to shop trying to save a few pennies on things we need," she said. In addition to the work of caring for her husband and son, and running the home, she has to keep the garden tidy and grows vegetables to save money.

"It's a hard life," she says, "But then I have always had it very hard. However, each year, as I get older, it gets a little harder."

### The blind wife and her spastic husband

JIM and Martha are a disabled, married couple who live in Essex. Jim is spastic and confined to a wheelchair, while Martha is blind.

Their joint income consists of Jim's disability pension which is £27.52 a week and Martha's old age pension which is £23.00 a week. In addition, Jim receives £160.00 a year to pay for the running, servicing and repairs to his adapted Mini.

Their outgoings are as follows: Rent and rates £9.91; £7.00 a week for heating and lighting; food £20.00 a week, and sometimes more when they stock up on cleaning materials which they buy in bulk; £1.00 a week for home help (the council pay an additional 50p to this amount); £2.00 a week on milk; 'phone calls, about £6.00 a quarter (the rental is free since the telephone was installed by the council); 50p per week on life

insurance; £1.10 a quarter on household insurance. The car allowance Jim receives does not cover his costs which vary, according to what needs doing to the car, but Jim estimates that, together with the increased cost of petrol, these costs approach at least £3.00 a week, although they economise by going on foot as much as possible. For example, Martha pushes the wheelchair to the shops with Jim guiding her with one foot. This necessitates hooking the shopping basket on to the back of the wheelchair and trudging up a long road on their return.

The only saving they are able to make is towards the cost of their annual week's holiday in a hotel for the handicapped at Cliftonville, in Kent, which costs £83.00.

Neither Martha nor Jim smoke or drink at all and they do not go out to local cinemas or have any entertainment except for a weekly visit to an old people's club.

### Heat just one room

SARAH is 28 and spastic as well as registered blind. She married last December and would like to start a family, although Eric, her husband, 35, who is not handicapped, thinks it is too early. He is currently unemployed.

Eric moved into Sarah's flat in Bolton, Lancs, which is on a warden controlled estate for mainly elderly blind people. Rent and rates are £10.71. The underfloor central heating is run from a white meter and they say it costs £3-4 a week. "We only heated one room this winter."

A rented TV costs £5.00 a month. Social services pay 70 per cent of the telephone rental. Clothes they get from a catalogue which Sarah runs — they estimate £10.00 a month. Eric gets Supplementary Benefit of £83.00 a fortnight. At the end of June he is going to do shift work in a bakery for £64.00 gross a week which he reckons with tax and insurance deductions will leave them £9.10 a week worse off than they are now.

Sarah gets mobility allowance of £48.00 a month, which she spends mostly on taxis for journeys alone. It costs £2.40 to go to the supermarket in the town. Food — £15-20 a week. Entertainment — "We prefer having people here because we can cook for them quite cheaply."

### No job for mother

MR and Mrs F. and their two daughters Tessa, 11, and Sharon, 9, live in a pleasant council house with its own garden which costs £11.55 per week rent and rates. Mrs F.'s take-home pay as a fitter is around £60.00. Child Benefit for the two children comes to £8.00 and Sharon, who is spastic as well as epileptic, gets the full attendance allowance of £18.60 per week.

The main extra expense is for heating. Sharon, who is liable to fits day and night, has home tuition which means an additional room has to be heated for her when the teacher comes four times a week. And they have had to instal a gas fire, for instant heat when Sharon wakes in the night. Mr and Mrs F. take it in turns to sit up with Sharon, which is most nights. Bedwetting at night means additional laundry.

The family have given up the mobility allowance and are leasing their Mini through Motability which means they have to pay for tyres and petrol. If Mrs F. wasn't constantly at home with Sharon, she could easily get part-time work as a hairdresser to help out.

### Sausages, mince, and no cash for birthday parties

KEN and Lee are a married couple, aged 29 and 27. Lee is spastic with indistinct speech and unsteady hand control. Ken is epileptic and asthmatic. They live with their two children, Paul and Sarah, in a council house in Essex.

Ken works as a printer with Remploy and his take-home pay is £55.00 a week. In addition, Lee gets family allowances of £8.00 a week, and a housewife's non-contributory invalidity pension of £14.00 a week. As well, she receives £40.00 a quarter towards the running of her Mini. The rent of the house is £17.50 and they save £7.50 a week to cover fuel and lighting bills. Lately, they have been find-

ing their financial position increasingly difficult as inflation rises. Lee manages to feed the family and keep the house clean on £20.00 a week, but does not consider they eat very well. "It's sausages, mince, sausages, mince," she says. We can't afford a joint but at weekends we manage a chicken or a piece of bacon. I never buy cakes, and very few biscuits, and we certainly can't afford a birthday party for the children."

Ken's work is 14 miles away in Barking and because they couldn't afford the fares of over £5.00 a week, he invested in a motor bike which they have just finished paying for at £11.00 a month.

The council installed a telephone free of rental charges, but the calls cost £6.00 a

quarter on average as they try not to use it except when essential. Lee spends over £4.00 a week on petrol as their son's school is half an hour's walk away. Recently she was faced with a repair bill of £175.00 which they could not possibly meet and she had to turn to The Spastics Society for help or she would have been without the transport that is so essential to her.

Recently, her washing machine broke down and needed a new motor. She hadn't the money to pay for it so now she uses the local launderette which costs her £2.00 a week. At one time she had a home help for three hours a week as, because of her handicap, she takes longer over the housework. However, this now costs £2.50 a week so now she manages without help. Television rental of a black and white set costs £3.50 a month and is one of their few pleasures.

The children's clothes and shoes are a problem. "Paul is always growing out of his shoes and these cost me £10.00 a pair as he has to have a specially broad fitting. The baby is just starting to walk and her first pair of shoes cost me £5.00. I rely very much on presents for their clothing needs, and as for us, well, we just don't buy any."

### 'Keeping warm or eating - not both'

JOAN is 50 and has been confined to a wheelchair for 15 years. She lives in a council flat in Plaistow completely alone since the death of her mother some years ago. "With the income I receive," she says, "it's a question of either keeping warm or eating — not both."

She receives £29.10 social security and £14.00 a week mobility allowance. Her rent is £15.64 a week and she reckons that she spends well over £7.00 a week on lighting and heating. "The council has just installed central heating and I'm terribly worried how much it will cost," she said. "I dread getting into debt."

Joan spends £1 a week on milk and £7.00 a week on food. "I only get a proper dinner every other day. Otherwise I eat bread and Marmite or an egg."

She has an Invacar and receives £10.00 a year as a petrol allowance which goes nowhere near her requirements. In addition, the car has developed a leak which cannot be detected and so is doing very poor mileage. "I reckon I spend at least £3.00 a week on petrol and I don't go very far," she said. She owns a small and ancient refrigerator and an old washing machine. "They are always going wrong but my brother comes up here and takes them to pieces and somehow or other keeps them going for me."

Sometimes she is so short of money she has to borrow from her home help, provided free by the council, so that shopping can be done. "I pay her back the next week. That's how I go on — from hand to mouth."

A black and white TV is something she and her mother bought together and saved up for over the years. "But my great worry is that I can't afford the licence. I live in dread of a knock on the door if one of the detector vans comes round. Would they send me to prison?"

Joan never buys any clothes. She gets all her sister-in-law's cast-offs.

If people ask her what she would like for Christmas and birthday presents she asks for bras, knickers and stockings. "It sounds incredible but I never have the cash to buy any myself."

Despite her problems, Joan is happy, cheerful and has a great sense of humour. She has two canaries which keep her company.

Replacing household items is a terrible headache. "I was really up against it when my mattress went. A new one was £52.00. I asked for assistance but they would only give me £19.00. However, The Spastics Society came to my rescue, and provided the rest."

Joan would really like to meet the Chancellor of the Exchequer. "I'd give him the money and say 'here, have it back. See how you can manage.'"

### Divorced, depressed

DENNIS is 33 and spastic with an unsteady walk and poor hand control. He has a BSc from Sussex University and until his marriage broke up was a computer programmer. Due to the upset of his divorce he was unable to concentrate, and gave up his job.

Since September he has been trying to get another job but so far has not been successful. At present he is living on £28.35 a week which is made up of £16.35 supplementary benefit and £12.00 mobility allowance.

Now that his wife and two children, one of whom is spina bifida, have moved to Scotland, he has given up his council flat and moved home with his parents in Hove, who charge him £10.00 a week for bed and board. Dennis feels badly about this as this amount does not cover the cost of keeping him, but he is unable to afford more.

He has not seen his children for a year and worries about this. However, he cannot afford to visit them because, even if he could persuade a friend to drive him, the cost of the petrol would be £35.00 and the cost of accommodation would be £32.00 plus food at £15.00.

"Living on this small amount is very difficult, because I have extra expenses such as shoes, which wear out very quickly because of walking, and also need repairing at least once a month. The trouble is I have little money to go about and desperately need to communicate with people to prevent getting more depressed by the barrenness of my life."

### When there is a spastic child in the family

MR A. is a 44 year old self-employed builder. Mrs A. is 31. Prudence aged 3½ is spastic. She has a younger sister Rebecca 15 months.

They live in a 2 bedrooomed ground floor flat in Essex paying £15.14 per week in rent and rates. Hire purchase com-

mitments for carpet, furniture, fire and cooker amount to £21 per week. Prudence's room was furnished by The Spastics Society.

Mr A. earns between £70.00 and £80.00 per week less tax but this varies with the weather. "If he's off sick, he doesn't get paid and he's often rained off. Christmas is the

worst time when people don't want any building work done."

Mrs A. doesn't put money aside for gas and electricity. "I did open a special Giro account but I found it impossible to keep it up." Her last quarter's bills were £47.00 for gas and £124.00 for electricity, which was cut off for three days until the bill was paid.

But only after they had sat in the dark for three nights. It cost £41.00 to reconnect.

Mrs A. reckons spending £25-30 a week on food. They get attendance allowance at the lower rate for Prudence — £12.40 per week and £8.00 Child Benefit for both children.

School dinners cost 35p per

day and are going up by 10p soon. Mrs A. had to buy a blender costing £33.00 to prepare Prudence's food. Extra expenses because of Prudence's handicap include laundry costs. Disposable nappies are provided by Social Services — "I had to fight for these — some councils don't give them to under fives."





MERLE Davies and Bill Hargreaves, Head of Recreational Services for The Spastics Society, show their admiration for Liberator 1, which Mr Terry Reynolds owner of the Chalfont Line, has converted to take 15 wheelchair users. The Chalfont Line have now taken over responsibility for the running of the holidays on behalf of The Spastics Society, with Mr Hargreaves acting as consultant.

## Holiday lift off with the Liberator

FROM the outside Liberator 1 looks like any normal 47-seater commercial holiday coach. It can, however, take 15 wheelchair users who are raised aboard by means of a specially designed Ratcliffe lift, and it is the first ever vehicle of its kind to be certified by the Ministry of Transport for commercial use.

As well as the side lift, the whole of the off-side of the coach is fitted with slotted wheelchair grips to hold the wheelchairs stable.

Liberator 1 and its twin vehicle Liberator 2, which cost the Chalfont Line some £44,000 each for the conversion work, have already started their summer tours to Volkenberg, Holland; Ostend and Switzerland.



MERLE Davies, who works for The Spastics Society in the Family Services and Assessment Centre at Fitzroy Square, uses her wheelchair to demonstrate the use of the side lift, showing just how big a drop it is from coach floor level.

## Delving into dust — for gold

EVEN vacuum cleaner dust can be turned into gold, says Mr Maurice Smith, Secretary of the Brighton, Hove & District Spastics Society. And just to prove he wasn't talking a load of rubbish, Mr Smith told Spastics News that his group earns around £70-£80 per year by selling bags of the dust to a local laboratory belonging to the Beecham Group.

Five pence a pound is the going rate and the dust is used for research into allergies.

## Come to the Fitzroy Fair

THE leafy quiet of Fitzroy Square, London W1, will be transformed on the night of July 17 when the annual fair in aid of the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre which is based there, will be held.

Next month's fair promises to be even more splendid than its predecessors and Christopher Robinson, Appeals Development Officer for the Society, is asking for help to ensure its success. Along with a request for saleable items to go on the stalls, Christopher is looking forward to a ready response from staff to take their places behind the stalls on the big night.

## No way in to wed

CINEMAS, theatres, town halls, libraries and supermarkets are the usual targets for access for the disabled campaigns.

The latest closed-doors story to reach Spastics News concerned the couple from Wigan who had to get married in a neighbouring town because they couldn't get their wheelchairs inside the local registry office.

## Every town needs a 'freedom' bus...



THE severely disabled people of Gillingham have been given the "Freedom" of the Kentish town by the Maidstone and District bus company. The company have put on a bus, only the second in the country, with a hydraulic platform to enable passengers to board from pavement level.

The £150 cost of the platform was met by the local branch of the Disabled Income Group, whose press officer Mrs Judith Oliver explained: "The platform will mean that many people who have not used buses for years will be able to get about more." The bus company are running the bus as an experiment and have no plans to adapt any more.

Our picture shows passengers boarding the bus on its first run watched by local dignitaries including Gillingham's Mayor, Coun Barry Hodgman and MP Freddy Burden.

Picture by the Chatham Rochester and Gillingham News

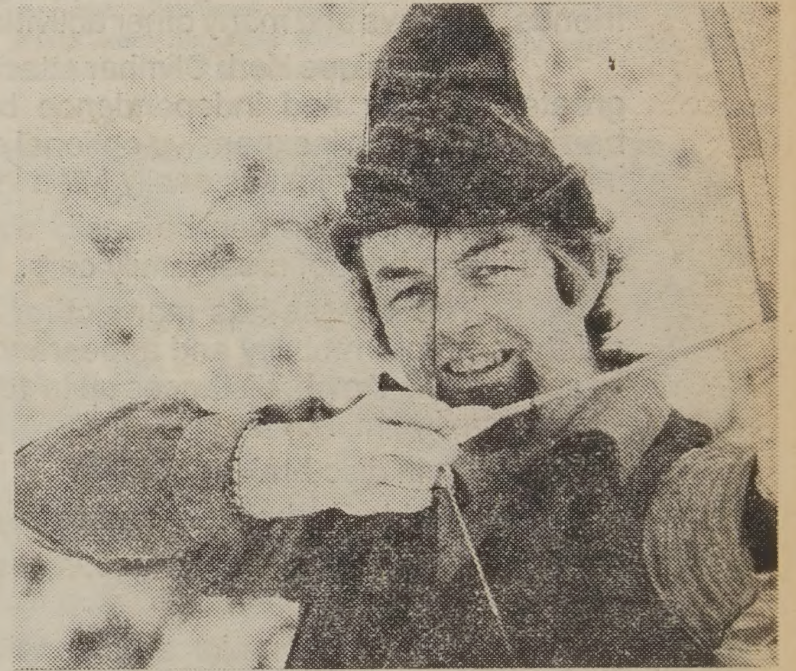
## Would you believe it — here's Robin Hood — raising funds

THIS man's name really is Robin Hood and he looks after a residential home for spastics in Paisley, Scotland. What's more his real-life partner is actually called Marion.

But this Robin's only target is fundraising — to take the 20 handicapped residents at Scotsraig Residential Home away on holiday.

"I suppose you could say I rob the rich to look after the less well off, but only in the nicest possible way," comments Robin.

Picture by the Evening Times, Glasgow



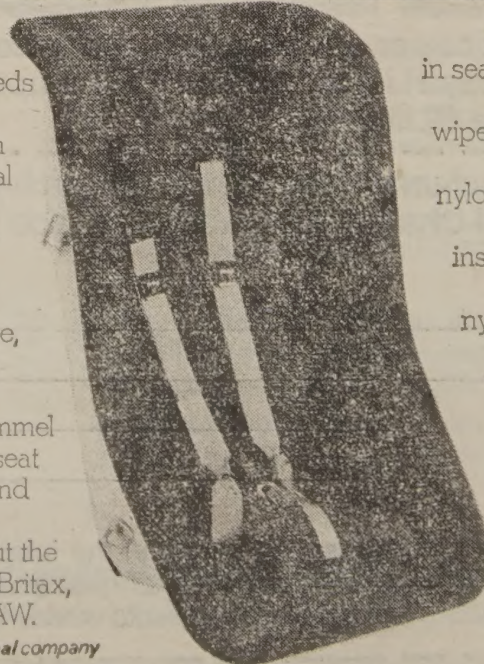
## Safely supports a handicapped child.

The Britax Handicapped Child Seat has been developed to meet the needs of the handicapped child. The seat will safely support a child weighing between 20 and 100 lbs. And allows for individual adaptation to suit children with a wide variety of special needs.

The seat design is the result of co-operation between organisations like the Spastics Society, The Wolfson Centre, The Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus and Chailey Heritage.

Head supports, side supports, pommel and harness are fully adjustable, so the seat grows with the child. It's easy to install and remove, and it looks good too.

If you'd like more information about the Britax Handicapped Child Seat contact: Britax, Chertsey Road, Byfleet, Surrey KT14 7AW. Telephone: Byfleet 41121. a BSG International company



Shell. Fully stressed seat in glass fibre. Slots in seat back allow re-positioning of harness.

Cover. Navy blue. Deep foam-backed in wipe clean brushed nylon.

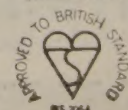
Head Supports. Foam with washable nylon cover. Adjustable vertically.

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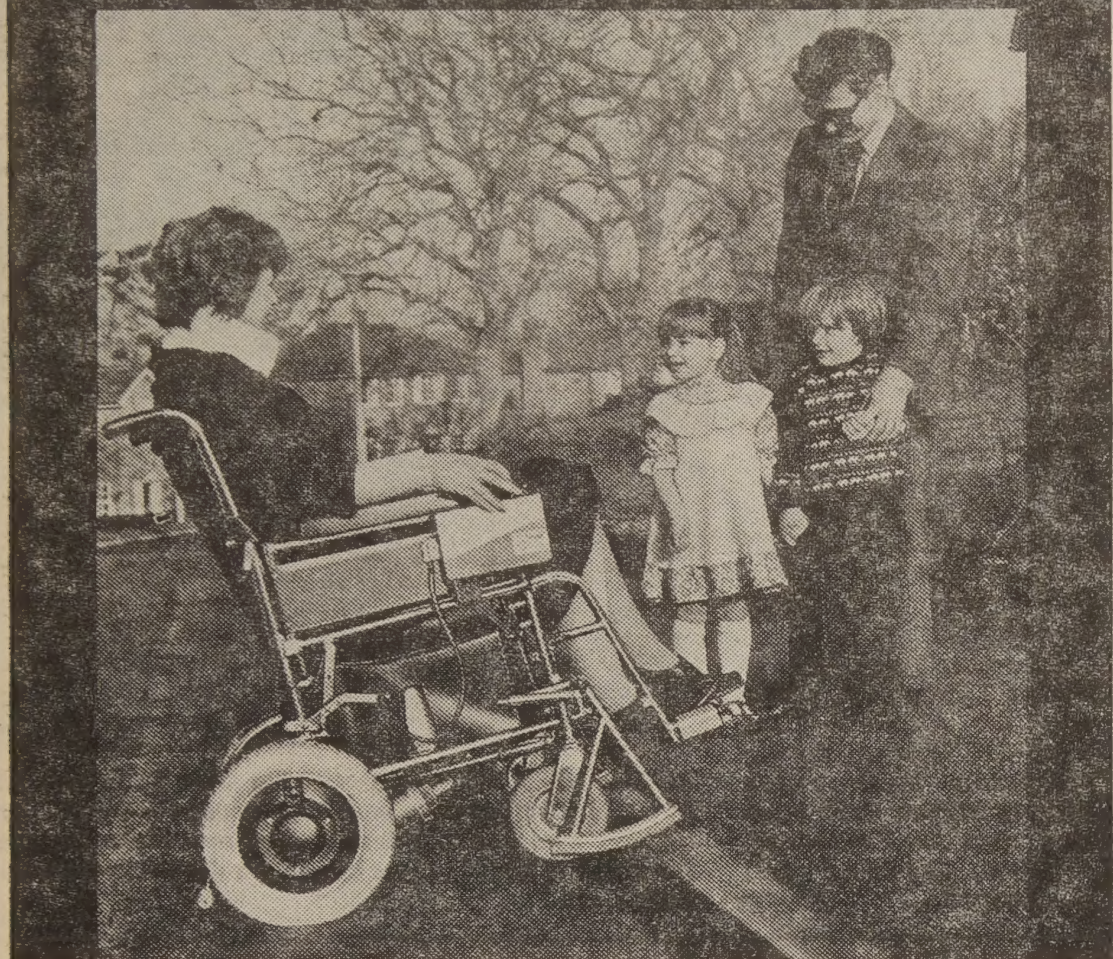


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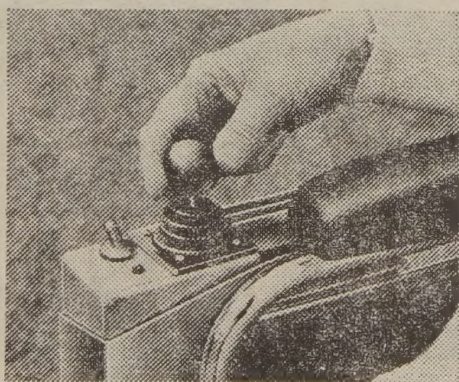
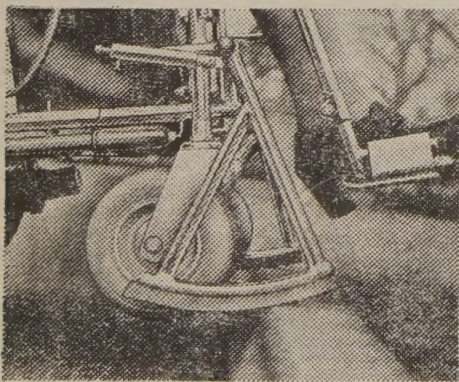
The unique Kerb Climber attachment ensures even greater mobility and independence by beating the kerb barrier. This is an inexpensive optional extra available at the initial purchase or just as easily fitted later.

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## Plea to Minister 'give us a replacement for the invalid trike'

REPRESENTATIVES from disabled organisations belonging to the Replacement Specialised Vehicle Project (RSVP) have met Mr Reg Prentice, Minister for Social Security and the Disabled, in order to press their case for an alternative to the invalid trike.

The decision to stop the issue of invalid tricycles in 1976 has resulted in an ever-increasing number of severely disabled people finding themselves stranded. Many who could have sought training and employment now face life as prisoners in their homes, says RSVP, which feels particularly angry about the plight of the 16-year-old disabled school leaver. Three and a half years ago these young people could have expected a vehicle on

their 16th birthday, and they are now denied the chance of exploring their potential in the adult world.

Over 3,000 people responded to RSVP's invitation to fill in a questionnaire about their transport needs, and the analysis of these questionnaires confirmed the need for a specialised vehicle. Mobility, says RSVP, is helpful to those with adequate financial resources

and the ability to drive a production car, but there are many disabled people who cannot use production cars.

There must be the option of a specialised vehicle provided by the NHS at no cost to the disabled person so that independent mobility is restored to those now denied it, says RSVP, and 1981, the International Year of Disabled People, would be the year to do it.

## Star opening for pool with a view



ACTRESS Sylvia Syms, from the Stars Organisation for Spastics, gives her official blessing to the new swimming pool at the White Lodge Centre, Chertsey, Surrey. The new hydrotherapy pool was built with £1,500 raised by voluntary effort in only four months. It replaced the original pool which was cracked and beyond repair.

The pool has a large mirror in the ceiling which encourages the more timid children to put their heads back in the water.

"They look up into it to get a glimpse of themselves and get wet without even noticing it," says Mrs Shanne Humphreys, the hydrotherapist at the centre.

Picture by Surrey Herald

## Berlin leads the way with 'Telebus' service

WEST Berlin has introduced a special transport service for the disabled which would be a boon if it could be copied here. Called "Telebus", the service is for those in a wheelchair who cannot use regular services. The disabled would-be traveller calls the "Telebus" office, and if the request can be met, a specially adapted and equipped bus is sent out to carry out the journey.

Different vehicles are being tested in Berlin, and the idea is that the best prototype can serve as a model for introduction throughout the rest of the country.

## Come one, come all to Castle Priory

HANDICAPPED children and adults plus their families and friends are invited to Castle Priory College, run by The Spastics Society, on Saturday, July 19, to take part in an Activity Day. There will be opportunities for painting,

collage, modelling, dancing and music-making and there will be plenty to interest children and adults of any level of disability.

Some overnight accommodation is available for the Friday night for people having to travel long dis-

tances and there will be a small charge for this.

Application forms and full details for the Activity Day—A Shared Learning Experience—Course No 14/46, are available from Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon. Closing date for applications is July 7.



## Disabled will make or break UN Year

DISABLED people themselves are the catalysts who will make or break the International Year of Disabled People, said Mr Bill Hargreaves, Head of Recreational Services for The Spastics Society, who is also a member of the IYDP committee.

And Mr Hargreaves had some even stronger words to say to the packed meeting of voluntary organisations in Surrey who had met to discuss plans for IYDP Year.

Disabled people, he told his audience, should not expect to be equal to the abled bodied if they also expected special treatment and privileges.

"Disabled people can have a dreadful handicap, and that handicap is self-centredness," commented Mr Hargreaves. They could not help being disabled but they could help being handicapped, he continued.

He himself was well aware of the problems as he had been through them himself. He was eight years old before he could talk, and 35 before he could drink from a cup.

Integration, he said, was the most overworked word in the vocabulary. The disabled had a great big chip on their shoulder about being accepted.

"But all the able-bodied people I know are far from integrated," said Mr Hargreaves. "They are only integrated with the people they get on with. Let us get rid of the myth that everybody is integrated with everybody else."

### Aid for SOS

THE Stars Organisation for Spastics' Holiday Hotel for children at Bexhill, Colwall Court, is to have a new toilet in the swimming pool area thanks to the Northiam holiday fund for local spastics. A cheque for £150 towards the cost was handed over by Richard Moore of the Fund to Russ Conway of the SOS at a presentation evening attended by 150 people.

## Talking and playing at youth weekend



### Teenagers discuss IYDP Projects

THE Spastics Society was one of six voluntary organisations, including PHAB, which helped run the "From School to What" weekend conference which aimed to look at the present-day problems facing young people during the transition from school to working life. The conference took place at Goldsmiths College, London.

Representatives from Government and industry provided exhibitions as well as careers advice and a popular guest speaker was Norman Croucher, OBE, the disabled mountaineer, who is a member of the International Year of Disabled People National Committee.

Thanks to a £3,000 grant from the Royal Jubilee Trust, the 180 delegates, 71 of them disabled and 58 able-bodied, were able to formulate plans for various community projects.

One of the most original

ideas came from the Cleveland group which propose to build a mobile display unit to take round schools and youth clubs, accompanied by physically handicapped young people who would explain their disabilities face to face.

The Hertfordshire and North London group also plan to make use of the personal touch in their public education programme. The idea is to send a mixed group of half a dozen young people, some handicapped, some not, on visits to schools and youth clubs, Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies for question and answer exchanges.

The group from Manchester propose to examine the feasibility of much larger numbers of disabled students attending local Further Education Colleges and Polytechnics since they felt this was one of the best methods of educating towards acceptance.

Other young people's action groups working on projects for IYDP year 1981 include Birmingham and West Midlands, Bristol, South Wales, Hants, Sussex and Ipswich, Hull and Leeds, Liverpool, Lancaster and Sheffield.

Anyone who did not attend the conference but who would like to be involved can still contact Sue Kendall at The Spastics Society, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ.

TEENAGE delegates attending the "Towards '81" Conference "From School To What" at Goldsmiths' College, enjoyed a lively sports session, organised by PHAB, on the Saturday afternoon, with music, drama, arts and crafts as less vigorous options.

But the main purpose of the conference was to give young people, disabled and able-bodied from all over the country, the opportunity to plan and prepare action projects for IYDP Year.

## How two rusty old tins turned into little gold mines

MRS Ann Green was hunting around the garage of her North Wembley home when she came across two mementoes of the days she and her husband ran a pub in the Old Kent Road. Aged, rusty and dusty with faded yellow labels proclaiming that they belonged to the National Spastics Society, of 28 Fitzroy Square, were two collecting tins that had stood on the pub's bar.

"I was a bit worried about bringing them along after such a long time," Mrs Green explained to the now Spastics Society. "I was so sorry about the delay. But we'd always kept tins on the bar because our own son, John, now 30, is a spastic and I always went along to meetings. He got married to Janet King, who is also a spastic, last year, and she had a lot of help from the Society so I thought I'd bring the tins along to see if they would be any use."

Mrs Green had no idea how long ago it was that the tins were filled but it was well over 15 years ago from the name and address on the labels. The Society's HQ is now at 12 Park Crescent, W1.

Christopher Robinson, the Society's Appeals Development officer, presided over the tins' opening — the old fashioned metal plates were detached from the bases and a treasure

trove was disgorged. For decimalisation has changed the face and shape of our currency and the tins were packed with coppers and silver.

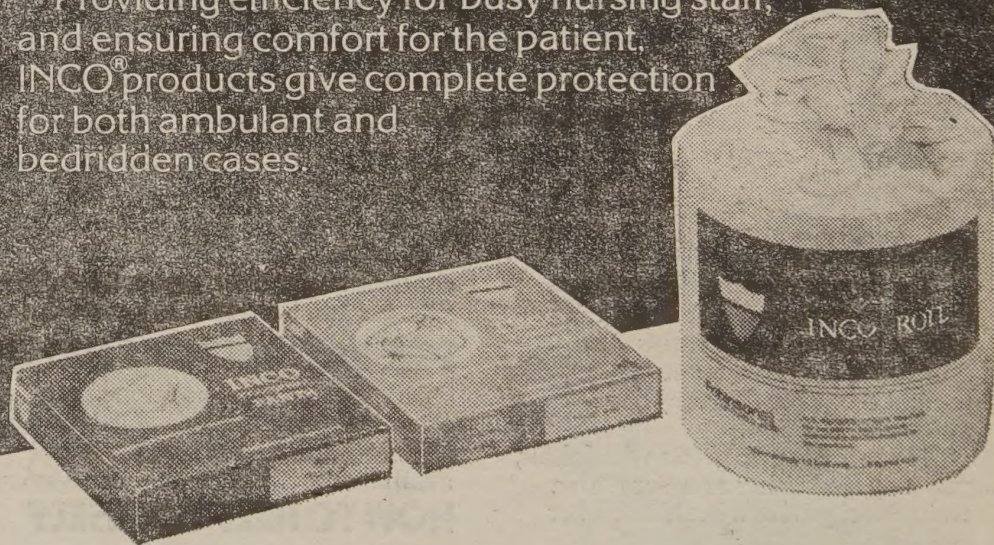
Three half-crowns, 90 George VI pennies, 200 George V, 10 Edward VII and 13 Victoria pennies along with florins, bobs, ship ha'pennies, sixpenny and threepenny bits all adding up to a numismatist's dream.

The real value will depend on expert assessment of the coins' condition but they certainly represent a wealth of English history. The first tin to be opened contained four bun pennies, with their portraits of the young Victoria, and the oldest was minted in 1862 — when the American Civil War was the main news of the day.

By storing the tins for nearly two decades, Mrs Green turned the tins in her garage into little gold mines.

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## National forum on sport for mentally handicapped

IN a move aimed at increasing opportunities for mentally handicapped sportsmen and women, Dick Jeeps, chairman of the Sports Council, announced the formation of the United Kingdom Sports Association for People with Mental Handicap.

The new body will co-ordinate the activities of interested statutory bodies, voluntary organisations and professional associations, and will also represent the UK in international matters. In addition, the Association will act as a national forum so that the community can be made more aware of the needs of

mentally handicapped people.

Initially, the new UK Sports Association will comprise of 15 national organisations. Six others, including three government departments, have accepted observer status.

It is envisaged that the Association will affiliate to the British Sports Association for the Disabled. Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and nine English regions will each have their own committees with representatives on a National Council.

An increasing number of

mentally handicapped people are taking part in a wide range of sports and physical recreations and last August Britain sent a team to the Special Olympics in America, bringing back over 60 medals.

Dick Jeeps commented: "Our aim of achieving Sport for All cannot succeed unless all sections of the community are given every encouragement to take part. I believe this new association can act as a catalyst in stimulating greater participation among mentally handicapped people and improving in real terms the quality of their lives."



## Lin tells her own story

LIN Berwick, a past winner of the Society's Special Achievement Award, has written an article of particular interest to other disabled people on facing up to the future. Our picture, shows Lin when she was the subject of Thames Television's "This Is Your Life" programme.

Now there is more fame for Lin with the publication of her autobiography. It was celebrated actor Andrew Cruikshank of "Dr Finlay's Casebook" fame who persuaded Lin Berwick to write her life story.

The young blind, spastic telephonist protested that she was no writer, but he insisted and promised to read every chapter as she wrote it. It was to take her over three years, most of it spoken into a cassette recorder — until she came to what she describes as "the painful bit" when she lost her sight. "I just could not speak into the machine. I relived it and it was too painful". But always a fighter, Lin solved the problem by writing that particular chapter in Braille — and even then it was hard.

Now her determination and Andrew Cruikshank's encouragement have paid off, and after 25 rejection slips "That's quite good

# If anything happens to my parents — what happens to me?

## We must bring our fears into the open

by Lin Berwick



really, only 25," says Lin, the book is to be published in October.

Called "Undeclared" and printed by the Methodist Publishing House, it will have a foreword by Mr Cruikshank. "He really has been a very good friend and a tremendous help," said Lin. And the book will also appear in Braille and as a talking book read by the BBC's Sue Magregor, presenter of "Woman's Hour".

"I'm wondering what people will make of it" says Lin. "The first five

chapters deal with the first 16 years of my life, and to read the edited version, those 16 years are run through so quickly, it's very odd. I tried to put myself outside it and read it as a stranger would and it was a very peculiar experience. A whole range of emotions are run through, just like a film".

Her autobiography covers her first 26 years up until the time she started training as a counsellor — "After all I had to stop somewhere" said Lin.

FOR any disabled person who is aware of what's going on around them and their family situation, they have tucked away in the back of their mind the almost unbearable, unspeakable thought of "if anything should happen to my parents what's going to happen to me?" It is often that very realisation that keeps the parents struggling on, makes them afraid of becoming sick, in fact they often say, "I must not be ill." I believe it's about time these fears were verbalised more and brought out into the open.

I can only write this article from my point of view. I am totally blind and spastic. A few months ago my mother was taken ill with a mild heart condition. For three days I was unable to go to work as I could not complete the task of dressing. My brother was working away in Sweden, and I was nearly 30. All these combinations of factors brought home the stark reality of how dependent I was on my parents and how if I didn't do something about it I would be well and truly stuck come that dreadful, almost unthinkable day when they were no longer around.

Much as it hurt I made myself think about it, and telephoned The Spastics Society to discuss the problems of residential care.

### Family Style

Institutionalised living is not for me. I prefer small intimate family groups. I find it difficult to relate in a big strange place with an extended family. One other important factor is that because I am working in open industry and earning a highly competitive salary, the vast majority of this would go on my care fees and I would have little or no independence. This is important to me particularly at this time because I am using much of my salary for higher academic achievement in the field of counselling and psychotherapy. This is my incentive for struggling to work and I would not want to lose that incentive.

I was advised to explain my position to the GP asking him to write to Mary Marlborough Lodge

which is part of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford. They run a course which is called "Design for Living." This course deals with every aspect of personal care and if possible tries to see if a person could cope living alone. The way this is done is to put the disabled person into a flat under medical supervision, training them how to use heat with safety, prepare food, wash and clean and care for themselves generally. Their other personal needs are not forgotten, the comfort of their wheelchair, whether they may need special shoes or physiotherapy to alleviate back pain.

### My Fear

The idea of Mary Marlborough Lodge was exciting for here I had the chance of discovering just what was possible. I had a lot of trepidation for I also had the fear of discovering what was not possible. If I stayed in my fantasy world I could have said, well if circumstances were right I would have been able to have done this or that, but now I had the opportunity of putting it to the test. Not easy.

So it was, with a great deal of fear, that I recently entered Mary Marlborough Lodge. I should not have worried for I don't think in all my experience of hospitalisation I have ever met with such perception and understanding towards the individual's circumstances. What is even more striking is the friendship of the staff. Sure, one cannot get away from the fact that it is a hospital and has a certain amount of routine, but as far as is humanly possible this routine has been dropped. Physiotherapist, occupational therapist, and sometimes the doctor, are referred to by their Christian names.

It's a little tough and bewildering at first, but if you can only stick at it it's worthwhile. One mustn't go to Mary Marlborough Lodge with an attitude of complacency expecting to stay in one's cosseted world. That's not Mary Marlborough Lodge's object. The aim is to make you much more of a functioning person. They give you time, energy, expertise and seemingly never-ending patience to achieve that

independence. What you have to bring apart from yourself is your own determination to succeed.

There were many people at the Lodge who were far more disabled than myself, and they were able to be helped by various aids and appliances, or perhaps just made more comfortable for sitting. One came away with a feeling of gratefulness, an even greater realisation that there are people less fortunate than yourself.

What amazed and delighted me was the openness of both staff and patients alike in an altogether relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

### Success

Perhaps I could just end this article by explaining what they were able to do for me. My parents are devoted to my needs and extremely supporting, and through that support they have sometimes been overprotective so have never let me cook for fear that I might burn myself, handle saucepans of boiling water for fear I might scald myself, use very sharp knives for fear I might cut myself, and so it goes on. After a two-week stay at Mary Marlborough Lodge I had got some feeling of what it would be like to cope on my own.

It wouldn't be easy, far from it, and most frustrating of all it would be time consuming, but I could manage. I could cope successfully with all forms of hygiene, I could cope with cleaning up the kitchen, apart from the floor, I could handle all aspects of cooking, boiling, baking, frying, roasting — my spaghetti with the Bolognese sauce and cheese was the envy of many of the staff. I looked at many kitchen gadgets and discovered what a boon a microwave oven was for a blind person, as the inside of the oven is cold.

There was one task that kept evading me and I thought would permanently do so — that of putting pants, tights and shoes on. I can't bend my knees up and I can't bend my back down sufficiently far enough to enable me to complete this. We spent three 1½-hour sessions trying to overcome this, and both the staff and myself thought we were going to be beaten, but no. They had devised a contraption whereby I can now get my pants on quite successfully. Haven't mastered the art of tights and shoes yet, but they're not giving up. They are also making me a new pair of shoes and are making arrangements for the chair I use at work to be changed.

All these little things might seem trivial but they add up to a better quality of life. I have come away happy in the knowledge that even though I might need a home help, I can at least cope with all my daily tasks and keep myself clean and presentable in society. All I'm left with is a wonderful sense of relief that now, should that unbearable thing happen, it's not going to be so unbearable any more. I don't have that fear to live with and for that I am deeply grateful to Mary Marlborough Lodge and I will always be so. Thanks.

## "Help yourself to the help you need"



### COOKING

For those with hand disabilities, many gas cookers can be fitted with special handles and controls. And remember, gas cookers need no matches to light them, because they have automatic ignition.

If you are confined to a wheelchair, you may find either a cooker with a waist-level grill or a built-in cooker helpful.

For those with failing sight or blindness, special braille thermostats are available for most gas cookers, together with braille cooking charts.

### GAS FIRES

Many gas fires are available with easily accessible top controls, to save bending, and most fires light automatically when turned on.

And for those people with hand disabilities, a special tap adaptor may be fitted to a number of fires.

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British Gas offers a wide range of help to those who need it most—elderly and disabled people.

If you have a disability—or have friends or relatives in need of help, here are some of the ways in which we can make life easier for you.

controls and room thermostats help to save gas and keep running costs down.

### PRE-PAYMENT GAS METERS

Meters can be re-positioned at a convenient height for disabled people, and special extended handles are available.

### HOW TO HELP YOURSELF

Go to your local gas showroom. If you cannot go, contact the Home Service Adviser of your Gas Region, who will be happy to call on you at home and provide advice free of charge. (You'll find the address and telephone number in your local telephone directory under GAS).

### MORE HELP

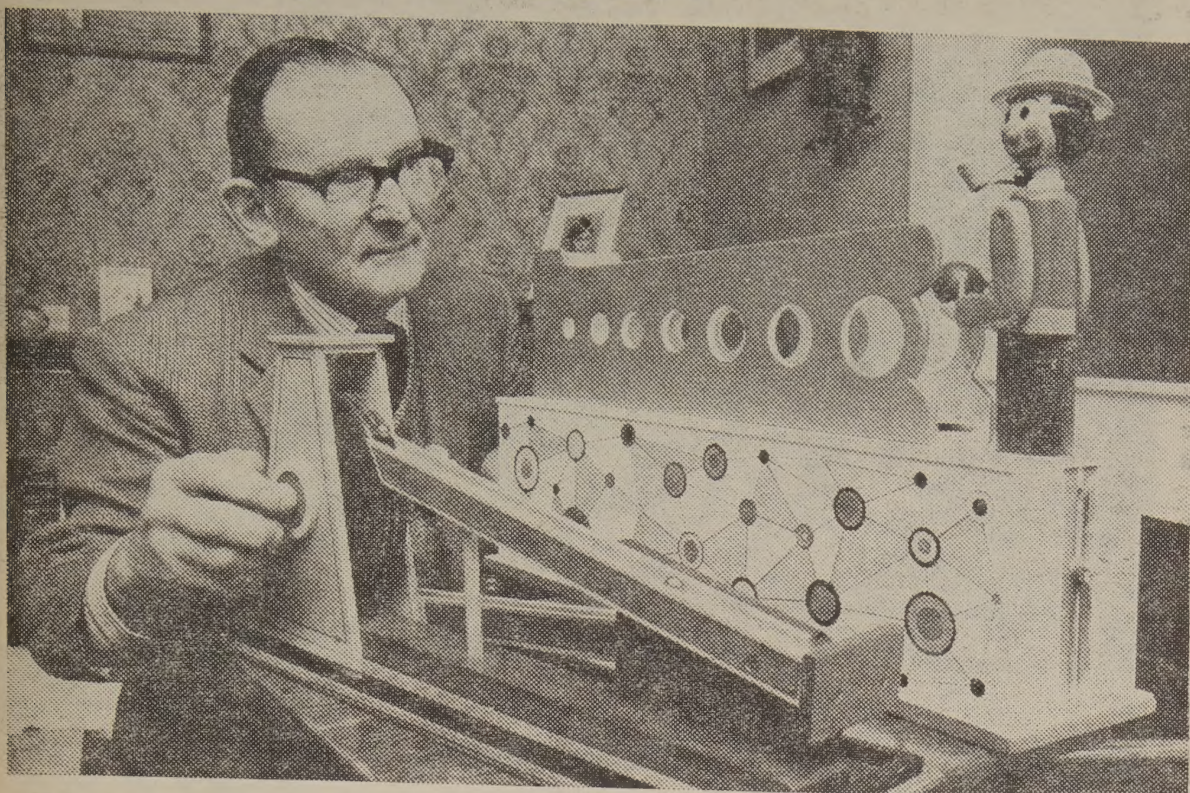
For information about other ways in which we can help—with safety and economy hints, for example, or with a choice of ways in which you can spread the cost of your gas more evenly throughout the year—contact your local showroom.

BRITISH GAS





## Retired, but as...



IT was during his 14 years of teaching at Craig y Parc School run by The Spastics Society that Jack Pettican became interested in designing and making toys for handicapped children.

Since his retirement two years ago, Jack has had more time to become involved with Active, a group specialising in educational toys. And now many of Jack's ideas are being used to help children throughout the world.

Picture South Wales Argus

INSTEAD of retirement Sonia and David Sage who used to work at Drummonds Centre, Feering, Essex, run by The Spastics Society, have chosen to start a new life as local shop owners.

Sonia, who used to teach handicrafts at Drummonds is now making and selling animal toys and David, who is a collector, sells second hand books.

Before her six years at Drummonds, Sonia worked for 13 years over the road at Grangewood Centre, Kelvedon, Essex, also run by The Spastics Society.

Picture by Essex County Newspapers

## Scotching myths on feeding

THE Society's Medical Education and Information Unit is holding a one-day meeting at Guy's Hospital, London Bridge, on June 20, on "Destroying myths in breast-feeding."

Speakers include Miss Chole Fisher, senior community midwife, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, Dr Edmund Hey, of Newcastle University, Dr M. Richards of Cambridge University, Dr David Harvey of Queen Charlotte Hospital, Mrs E. Salariya of Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, Dr Julia Levi, of University College Hospital, and Dr Mike Woolridge of the John Radcliffe Hospital.

The morning chairman will be Dr David Baum and the afternoon session will be chaired by Dr Aidan Macfarlane.

Papers will be delivered on a wide range of related topics from "origins of the myths" to "sucking patterns, milk composition and flow".

## ...busy as ever



## Society advises parents 'there is always hope'

THE Spastics Society has produced the first of what will be a series of simple leaflets designed to help the parents of very severely handicapped children to cope with their problems.

It is available free of charge from the Society's Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 0HE. The leaflet is entitled "But our child has a very severe mental and physical handicap."

The leaflet points out that while the very severely handicapped child is young and small, parents may be able to cope pretty well, but their lives are never quite the same as those of their neighbours. Just how different it is going to be depends on how parents go about dealing with their handicapped child and all the people living and working around them.

Although severely physically and mentally handicapped people will be unable to live independent lives, it does not mean that they will not be lovable people. They can also be very pleasant members of a family, and there is no one that does not need

and benefit from love.

The leaflet says that doctors and specialists may sometimes seem to talk in a foreign language but they will always explain more simply and plainly if they are asked.

It poses the question: "If there is no hope of improvement, how can we look forward to the future?" The answer is that there is always hope of some improvement. Even a smile of recognition for Dad when he comes home from work can be a great bonus; or a happy wriggle that shows the child likes one piece of music better than another, or one television programme better than another.

The leaflet deals with the ordeal of going out when people stare at the handicapped child, but the effort involved pays dividends. Gradually, if parents are outgoing, the handicap will be accepted.

It suggests it is important to have someone who understands to talk things over with. This may be a friend or relation or a health visitor or social worker. These people will not only listen but give helpful advice on practical matters.

The leaflet is designed to keep parents in touch with the outside world. Others in the series will deal with feeding, the day-to-day management of heavily handicapped people, allowances and services to which they are entitled, and the future when parents may not be able to cope at home and have to hand over to someone else.

## Society's 10th Literary Contest Prizes—and praise—for winning writers

THE annual Literary Contest for the Handicapped run by The Spastics Society celebrates its 10th anniversary this June, and on Wednesday, June 18, the winners, both children and adults, will meet together at The Spastics Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre in Fitzroy Square, London, to have lunch with the judges and to receive their prizes.

This year's judges are Marjorie Wallace, social services correspondent of the Sunday Times, who has chosen the first and second winners in the children's prose section; novelist Nina Bawden, who has judged the adolescents' work; and David Holloway, literary editor of the Daily Telegraph, who has selected the first and second adult winners.

### Welcome

All three are very welcome newcomers on the judging panel and all three have commented on how much they enjoyed their difficult task of selecting the best from so many promising entries.

Lady Wilson, who chose the winning poems in the poetry section, needed no briefing on what was required as she has long been a popular favourite with everyone involved in the

contest.

In the poetry section the two winning entries were both by cerebral palsied children and both living in the Birmingham area; 12-year-old Chris Givans, who wins £10 with "A Poem of Spring" and eight-year-old Angela Evans, whose poem called "Goldfish" has won her £5.

Both winners in the adult poetry section chose the theme of magic moments in nature transfixed in time. Mrs Nellie de Beauforte Saunders, from Aylesbury, described in her poem, the gradual slow opening of a rose, while Mr Charles Henry Stone, from North Humberside, the runner-up, very much impressed Lady Wilson with his first two lines "Like a fractured rainbow, Flashed a kingfisher's wing."

Marjorie Wallace, who judged the schoolchildren's section, chose a story about a worms' party, which had what she called an Alice in Wonderland flavour about it, written by 11-year-old Sarah Rees, from Epsom, Surrey, who wins £10. Another 11-year-old, Sophie Elizabeth Partridge,

from Harpenden, Herts, won the second prize of £5 with her story called The Magic Costume.

Novelist Nina Bawden felt that the most original entry in the adolescents' section and the one that gave her the most pleasure was a short essay by 16-year-old Tracy Karen Grocock, from Nottingham, who is a student at The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School in Tonbridge. Tracey's essay described a derelict urban landscape and she called it "Scarcely a Street, Too Few Houses." The second prize winner in this section was 16-year-old James Anderson with what Nina Bawden described as an excellent and spirited account of a Scottish family gathering.

### Moving

The prize winning entry in the adult section, by Hilary Stevenson, is a moving first person account of a young student on teaching practice being turned down for a job because of her wheelchair. "The Loneliness of the Short Story Writer" was the title given by the second prize winner David Swift, from Clifton Village, Nottingham.

David Holloway summed up all the entries to the literary contest in a few well-chosen words. "Nearly every one of the entries was genuine, coming from real experience and expressing what they wanted to say rather than what they thought might impress the judges."

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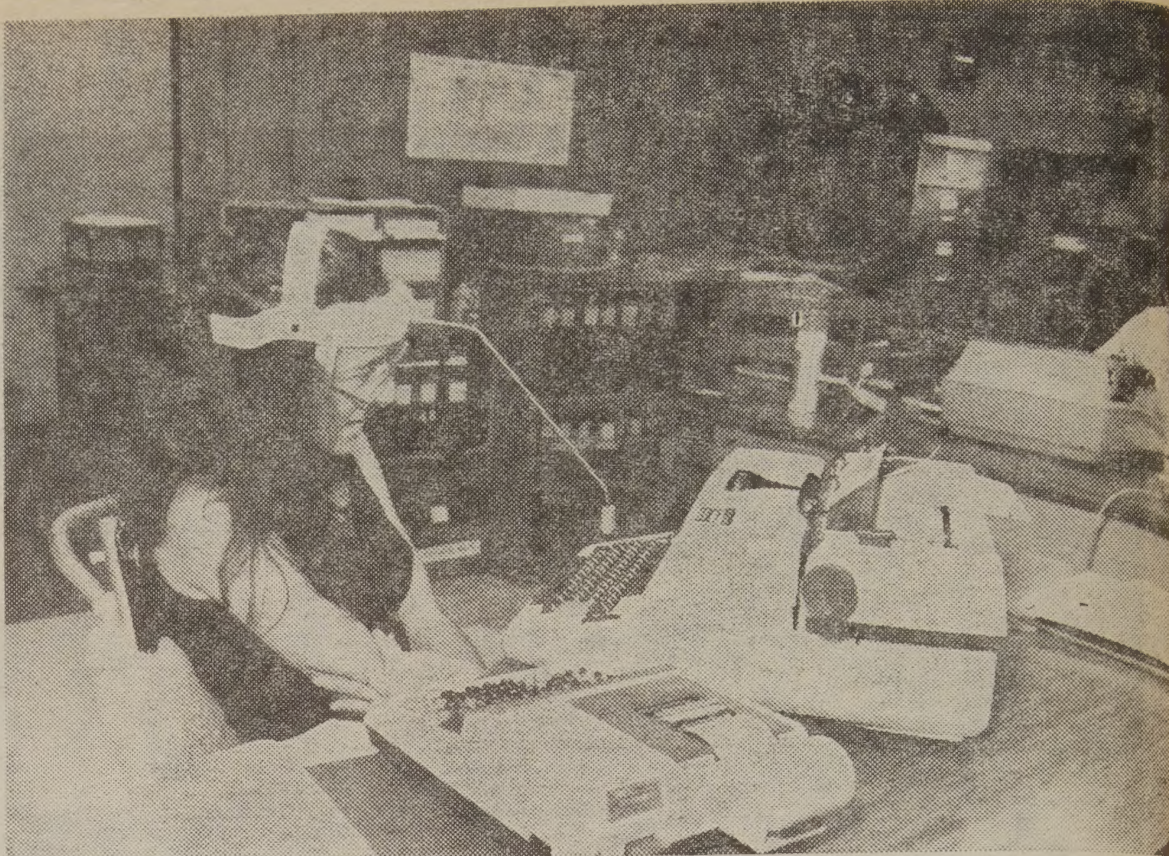
SN 6/80





CENTRE Industries, a rehabilitation centre established in Sydney in 1961 to employ cerebral palsied adults, today offers them the chance — and the challenge — to live dignified and productive lives no matter how severe their disabilities. It is wholly-owned by the Spastic Centre of New South Wales, established in 1945 by Mr Neil McLeod and his wife, Audrie, whose daughter, Jennifer, is a spastic.

Picture left: Handicapped and able-bodied employees work side-by-side at Centre Industries to assemble teleprinters. Picture right: An invoice typist uses a head probe to operate her electric typewriter and calculator.



# A chance — and a challenge — at Australian centre

by Chris Freeman in Sydney

JENNIFER McLeod was born in 1938, a victim of cerebral palsy. In those days there were no rehabilitation centres for spastic children, and little or no knowledge about their capabilities. Although many were highly intelligent, there was a tendency to regard them as mentally retarded children with the additional handicap of being physically disabled.

Jennifer's birth, however, was to result in the establishment in 1945 of a special centre in Sydney which today offers other spastic children and adults the chance — and the challenge — to live dignified and productive lives no matter how severe their disability.

The centre grew out of the love and determination of Jennifer's parents, Neil and Audrie McLeod, who refused to yield to the attitudes of the time. With

single-minded dedication, they set out to provide facilities to help Jennifer and other children like her develop their mental and physical capabilities.

Today the Spastic Centre of New South Wales, of whose board Neil McLeod is foundation chairman, operates two schools and medical treatment units for

300 children, provides treatment and training for another 300 babies and their mothers and outpatient services for cerebral palsied children and adults. It also runs a residential hostel for 100 country children and an adult hostel for 50 heavily handicapped adults.

In 1960, 15 years after it was established, the centre faced its biggest challenge. The first group of young spastic adults had finished their schooling, reaching what were then regarded as possibly their maximum achievement levels. But they still faced an uncertain future. There were few or no employment opportunities and they seemed destined to lead passive lives, dominated perhaps by a radio or television set, "rusting away" in Neil McLeod's words.

It was against this background that Centre Industries was formed in 1961, as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Spastic Centre, to provide rehabilitation and employment opportunities for cerebral palsied adults. From the start, it made no apologies or compromises. It was not to be a "sheltered workshop", but would compete on a commercial basis with normal firms producing similar goods and services. It would tender on the open market and win jobs on its merits.

## Output

Today Centre Industries has a staff of 230 handicapped people and 450 able-bodied employees, producing a broad range of telecommunications and allied equipment. The company initially made only relay sets for telephone exchange junctions, but production has been expanded to include telephone exchange parts, supervisory and traffic control equipment and electronic micro-processor-based teleprinters for Tele-

com Australia, the national communications authority. It now has a turnover of more than \$A7,000,000 a year.

Centre Industries has a simple but determined motto which appears on many notice-boards at the plant: "We have not yet seen a person whose physical handicaps are so great that he could not be significantly improved by applied treatment and technology. If we concentrate on what they can do, what they cannot do becomes irrelevant."

## Work for all

The company's philosophy is that work can be found for all cerebral palsied people, irrespective of physical handicap. Mr McLeod believes a handicapped worker is often much more highly-motivated than his able-bodied counterpart.

"The job means more to him than it does to somebody who can shop around for employment," he said. "He will work harder and will have a lower absentee record."

Mr McLeod agrees that it may take months or even years for a heavily handicapped person to become proficient in a skill.

"But he has the months — and even years," he said. "He is going to be a spastic all his life, and happiness is represented by independence and dignity which can be found in an environment like this; it cannot be found or enforced in a nursing home type of set-up."

Mr McLeod said Centre Industries gave handicapped employees the opportunity to mingle on a normal basis with their able-bodied workmates.

He said new electronics technology was reducing the production gap between the physically handicapped and the able-bodied worker. Much of it placed a higher premium on aptitude and intelligence than on physical dexterity.

Centre Industries applies standard engineering solutions to the problems of its disabled employees. No limit is set on the levels of physical handi-

caps because it is the engineers' problem to find a way to overcome them.

Jigs, tools and machines are modified, and additional plant and operating space are provided to offset individual, slower operating speeds.

Wages are paid according to production at able-bodied piecework rates, and they also receive the Australian Government's invalid pension.

Much has been achieved since the McLeods set up their first centre in 1945 in half a house offered by a friend for a nominal rent of one shilling (10 cents) a year.

"In 1945 we did not know whether the cerebral palsied children were capable of being educated," Mr McLeod said. "All the professional help we were offered said that they were not. The years have proved how wrong they were."

"Similarly, in Centre Industries we did not know whether adults as heavily handicapped as our cerebral palsied could contribute to their own training in a commercial, manufacturing environment. Now, however, the ability to do so is unquestioned, even for the severely handicapped."

Mr McLeod cites the case of a 52-year-old spastic, a highly intelligent man who had very slow speech and no hand movement, and who had spent most of his life on a farm in relative isolation. Within a year he had been trained to type at 20 words a minute and subsequently became a computer programmer.

## New aids

A research laboratory, established in 1974, is working on projects to develop further electronic aids to help replace the loss of muscle function, one of the major effects of cerebral palsy. Other work is being undertaken in speech development.

The centre has already started a programme for the early treatment of spastic babies as soon as a diagnosis is made, a few weeks after birth. The aim is to control the child's muscular development and prevent the growth of bad posture habits which add to the child's handicap. The mother is trained to be the child's therapist, under a planned medical programme.

"The babies will still be spastics, but they will never again need the orthopaedic or other surgery that has been the lot of my daughter, Jenny, and other adults of her generation," Mr McLeod said.

## How to fly in a wheelchair.



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## Farewell to Emlyn

ALMOST seven years to the day after he launched the Welsh region with a conference at Llandudno, Welsh senior regional officer Emlyn Davies — our "Window on Wales" man — is leaving the Society.

"I have had a fascinating seven years and one of the great qualities of the Society is the freedom it gives to individuals to develop their ideas and work in their own way. The Society has a very definite role to play in the future of that, I am certain. I am leaving because it has been in my mind to run my own business for some time, the opportunity came up and I had to say either yes or no within a week." Emlyn explained. He is becoming a restaurateur and visitors to the tiny Welsh village of Pont-henri Llanelli, Dyfed, will find him running The Baltic Inn.

Emlyn was born at Pontyclun at the foot of the Rhondda Valley and after National Service in the RAF joined the Ministry of Health as a technical officer dealing in aids and appliances.

After 12 years he moved to a pharmaceutical company as a salesman and ended up as manager of the London office 10 years later. However life in the capital was not to his taste and he returned to Wales as the Society's senior regional officer.

Six months after the conference the Wales regional fund was launched and then came involvement with sailing for disabled which Emlyn modestly says the Society pioneered, although he was instrumental in its success.

Now with the help of his wife Margaret who will look after the catering side he will run The Baltic Inn. "We've been living in a hotel for three years and we like the business, but there is no way you can do it part-time. We have a catering staff numbering 19 and a restaurant that serves 100. I'll be kept pretty busy."

Sadly, the "Window on Wales" section alongside is his last for Spastics News.



**WINDOW ON WALES**  
by Emlyn Davies

## Health authority keeps a promise

THIS column has regularly reported on the success of the Ceredigion Mobile Physiotherapy Service which has been financed by the people of Ceredigion with the help of the Welsh groups and the Wales Region during the last two years. Now the commitment by Dyfed area health authority to take over the service in its entirety at the end of the two year period has been honoured in a ceremony in the Postgraduate Centre of Bronglais Hospital, Aberystwyth.

This shows that statutory authorities and voluntary agencies can work together to the benefit of handicapped people and our thanks must go to the tremendous work carried out by Miss Denise Woods, the physiotherapist involved.

Our photograph shows the handing over ceremony with the cheque being presented by Mr Jim Andrew, Vice-Chairman South of the Wales Region of The Spastics Society, to Mr Philip Davies, district administrator of Dyfed Area Health Authority. Also present from left to right were Dr David Lewis, con-

sultant paediatrician, Mr Philip Davies, Miss Denise Woods, the Physiotherapist, Mr Jim Andrew, Mrs Moi Pritchard, the Society's fundraiser, who is responsible for raising most of the money and, finally, myself.

## Idea spreads

THE work of the mobile physiotherapy service in Ceredigion has attracted a great deal of attention in Wales and very recently we were approached by the Medical Officer of Health for the Llanelli Health District asking whether the Society would be prepared to fund a similar type of scheme under the same conditions as the Ceredigion model.

Unfortunately, owing to the present pressure on the Society's finances, it was felt inadvisable to try to fund this service by ourselves. Therefore, during the last three months, meetings, have been held with the associations involved with spina bifida, mental health in children, and muscular dystrophy in an effort to co-ordinate the four Societies to provide a service

which would benefit all types of handicap in the Llanelli area.

The meetings with these associations have so far been extremely worthwhile and there is no doubt that there is a large measure of support for a joint project. I am sure that at the end of the day the four Associations can work together to provide a Service which is so necessary and so worthwhile for the disabled of the Llanelli area. This also demonstrates, yet again, that providing one society acts as a catalyst it is possible to involve other voluntary agencies to benefit disadvantaged people.

## Stamps for Stephen?

STEPHEN Ciesielski is a worker at the Cwmbran Work Centre with his heart in the right place. He was so upset when he heard of the centre's financial difficulties he was determined to do something to help off his own bat.

He is now advertising for people to send him their unwanted trading

stamps and cigarette vouchers which he can exchange for money to help the Monmouthshire Spastics Society, which runs Cwmbran.

If you would like to help Stephen help Cwmbran send your vouchers and stamps to him at 21 Church Close, New Inn, Pontypool, Gwent NP4 0PE.

THE Spastics Society in May expressed its total opposition to the proposal to abolish Community Health Councils made in the Consultative Document "Patients First."

The Society stated: "Community Health Councils play an essential role because they provide a forum for public opinion, recruit members from local organisations and pressure groups, and act generally to process complaints and to represent the community's interests. The cost of CHCs — £4 million — represents .05 per cent of the National Health Service — a small price for the existence of a vigorous and informed consumer body fully accessible to the general public, which provides a vital input for the efficient management of NHS."

The Society also condemns

the omission of any mention of the physically and multiply handicapped in the section discussing good working relationships between district health authorities and local authorities responsible for social services, education and housing.

## 'Talk and try' day

RELATIVES of handicapped children are specially invited to attend a one day course on New Developments for the Handicapped Child to be held at the Percy Hedley School, Forest Hall, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, on Saturday, July 12.

The course, organised by Roger Jefcoate, consultant on electronic equipment to The Spastics Society, has a practical emphasis and opportunity will be given for discussion as well as for participants to try out equipment and mobility aids.

Fees for toy library organisers, teachers, health visitors and other therapists are £7; relatives £5.

Registration forms are available from the Headmaster, Mr D. Johnston, Percy Hedley School, Forest Hall, Newcastle Upon Tyne. Tel: Newcastle 665491.

**FAIRLIGHT, East Sussex.** A spacious detached bungalow (1967). Architect designed specifically for a disabled person, incorporating extra wide doors, ramps, etc. Choice position close shops, bus stop. Large lounge, sun room, fitted kitchen, 2/3 bedrooms, dining hall. Full gas central heating. Attraction

garden with large greenhouse. £42,750. Tel Pett 3075.

**FOR SALE: BEC Electric wheelchair** with elevating leg rests, heavy duty battery and used only three times, blue, price £400. — Please contact: Miss J. Bissell, 23 York Road, Netherton, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 9LS.

**THE Dorset Spastics Society's holiday caravan**, at Sandford Park, Holton Heath, near Wareham, Dorset, due to cancellations, is vacant during: June 14 for one week; July 26 for two weeks; and from August 30 until the end of September.

The caravan sleeps six, has main drainage, electricity, calor gas and all mod cons, including a shower. Enquiries to: Mrs W. Stephenson, 2 Ashling Close, Bournemouth. Telephone No Bournemouth 514645.

**FOR SALE: BEC 17 portable, folding electric wheelchair, unused.** Complete with battery and charge regulator. Speed 4 mph, range 8 miles. £250 to early bidder. — Contact A. Juvara, 45 Chesterton Road, London W10 on 01-969-8636 before 10 am.

**FOR SALE: Braune Baticar**, 3 years old, unused, green, front and rear lights, £555 (1980 list price £958). — Apply to Mr J. C. Scase, Kantara, Abbots Ann, Andover, Hants. Abbots Ann 479.

The International Cerebral Palsy Society and the Swiss Foundation for the Cerebral Palsied Child

**THE HANDICAPPED SCHOOL LEAVER**  
Gwatt, September 16-19, 1980

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Swiss Cerebral Palsy Centres, the above meeting is being organised jointly by the ICPS and the Swiss Foundation for the Cerebral Palsied Child.

There will be simultaneous interpretation in French/German/English.

The ICPS Annual General Meeting will take place during the course of the seminar.

The meeting is being held in a combined hotel/conference centre in Gwatt, some 25km from Berne. This is very much a family centre and rooms are mostly double or three-bedded without bath.

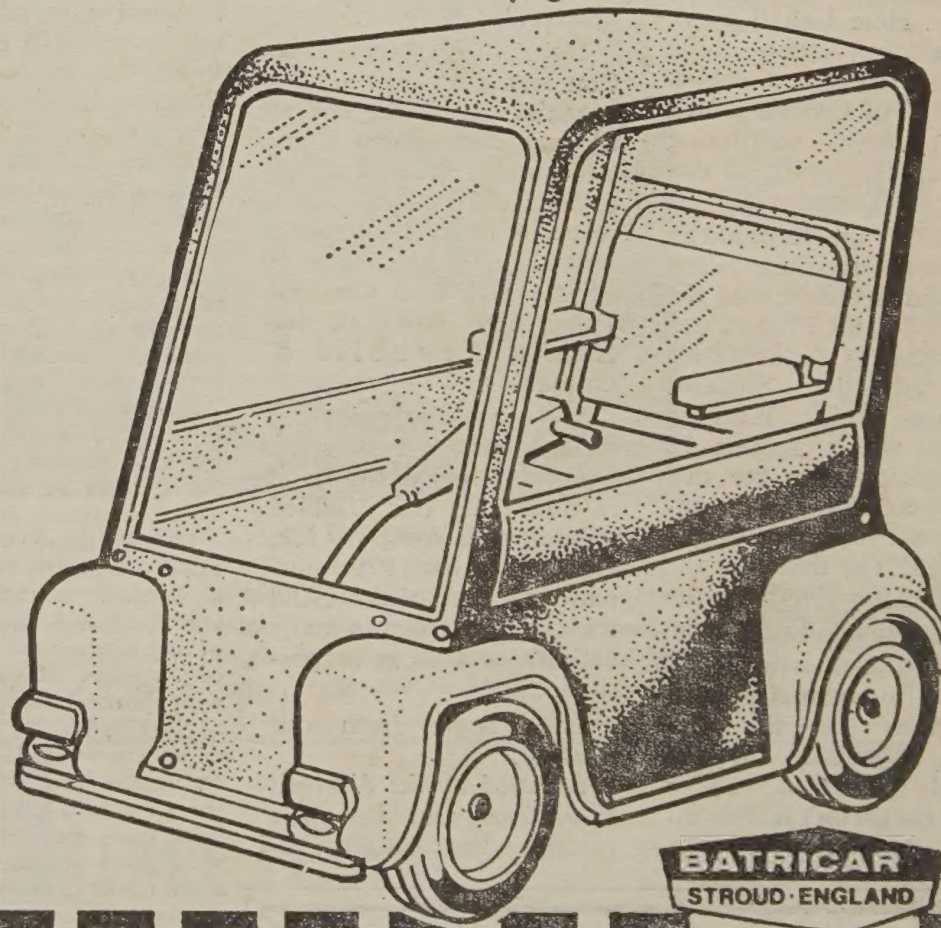
The seminar fee which includes accommodation and meals is Sfr 250. Single rooms

will cost Sfr 275 but only a few are available. The accommodation is for four nights, Tuesday September 16, departing Saturday September 20. A maximum of 200 people can be accommodated. The hotel is anxious to know about accommodation as soon as possible and it would be helpful if those wishing to attend could inform: Dr Ulrich Aebi, Reichenbachstrasse 111, CH-3004 Bern, Switzerland.

A party will travel from London. The approximate cost of air travel and transfer to Gwatt and return is £115. Those wishing to join this group should get in touch with: Mrs Anita Loring (Tel 01-794 9761), ICPS, 5a Netherhall Gardens, London NW3 5RN.

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## Penny's plunge into marriage

WHAT started as a leap from a plane with a parachute has ended with Penny Griffith going round the world. For the man who persuaded the Society's SE senior regional officer, publican Peter Chambers, to take the plunge from the plane has also persuaded her to take the plunge into matrimony, and for the next two years they will be honeymooning round the world.

After their marriage in Dorking Register Office the bells of Newdigate Parish Church, Surrey, where Penny and Peter went for a special blessing, rang a "Full Peal" which lasted over two hours. The church stands opposite the "Six Bells" pub which Peter used to run, and where he organised the parachute jump for charity with Penny and others which brought in over £2,000.

The wedding cake was decorated as a parachute and sculpted in icing, the centrepiece of the reception, was Peter, Penny — and a parachute.

## Probe on vital role of volunteers

LOCAL groups belonging to The Spastics Society are being asked to consider ways in which neighbourhood volunteers could be used more effectively than they are at present.

A working party report — "Them and Us — Working Together — Volunteers and The Spastics Society" states that increased local participation is essential if local groups are to survive. Needs at local level have changed radically since their formation in the 50's and 60's, states the re-

port, and the increasing professionalism of The Spastics Society with its emphasis on large-scale national campaigns makes it difficult for the average local group member to feel deeply involved.

However, the report does stress that there is still a tremendous amount to be done at neighbourhood level which cannot possibly be undertaken by local authorities or by the national organisation, and senior regional officers have been requested to discuss possible volunteer projects with local groups.

The working party which

consisted of staff and committee members of The Spastics Society was chaired by Miss Margaret Morgan, Controller of Personal Social Services. Copies of their report are available free of charge for local groups.

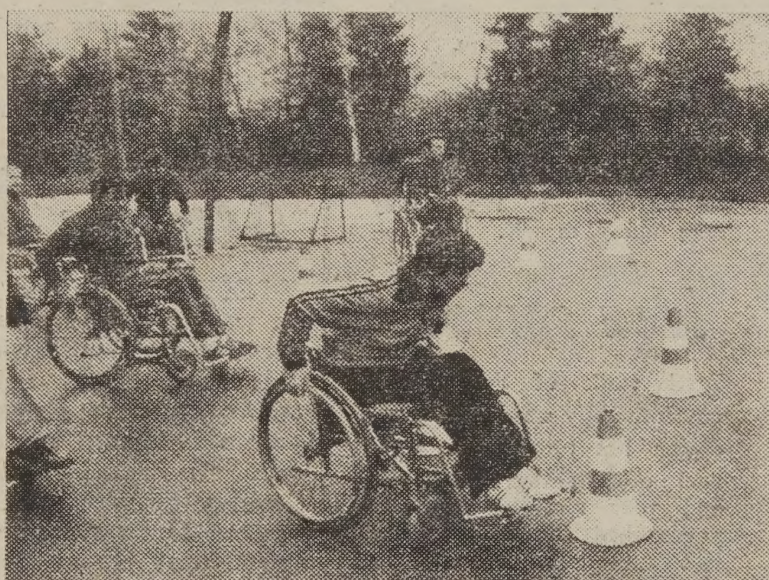
As far as the use of voluntary help from the disabled client's point of view was concerned, the working party recommended that education and advice should be provided both in the Society's and other special schools concerning the seeking, accepting and using of voluntary help. In residential centres where there were always people around to help, disabled people were not always aware that in the world

outside they would have to ask for help if needed. There was a certain technique in handling relationships with volunteers.

The working party recognised the valuable contribution of disabled people as volunteers, and it was felt that training opportunities should be made more accessible to them, particularly in the field of counselling. It recommended that a study should be undertaken to identify new areas where disabled people could be used as volunteers.

**Them and Us: Working Together — Volunteers and The Spastics Society.** Copies available free to members and local groups from 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ.

## Spastic people in Yugoslavia — a special report



### 'We have gained much, but many problems unsolved'

IVANCICA PLANING, a reader of Spastics News in Zagreb wrote this article on the way Yugoslavia's equivalent of The Spastics Society was born, and operates today

OUR WORK with cerebral palsied people and for the disabled in general is based on social and humanitarian activities within the self-management socialist society. Here I shall speak particularly about the situation in the Socialist Republic of Croatia which is one of the six constituting the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia.

In 1971, the Republican Conference for Rehabilitation and Protection of the Disabled in SR Croatia was established as a constitutive part of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People, which gathers 12 organisations for the disabled and organisations which act in behalf of the disabled. The motto of the Conference's activity is the late President Tito's message:

**"We must make such conditions for the disabled, especially for the severely disabled, under which they won't feel themselves as unproductive**

**members of the society. That psychological factor must be especially considered, because it is important that everybody feels himself as being productive."**

One of the very active Conference's member organisations is the one in the name of which I am writing to you, and which celebrated 10 years of existence in 1978. That is the Union of Societies of People Sick with Cerebral Palsy and Polio of the Socialist Republic of Croatia.

We especially point out on this occasion, that the greatest struggle for us is in qualifying our disabled children and youth for life. Our aim in the 1979 International Year of the Child was to undertake as many activities for them as possible.

Let's begin from our start-up.

Initiated by the disabled themselves and by their parents, the Society of

People Sick with Cerebral Palsy and Polio of SR Croatia was established in Zagreb, the capital of SR Croatia in April, 1968. The aim was to create more favourable conditions of life, and socially productive work, for people affected by these two conditions.

The Society is a voluntary socio-humanitarian organisation for promoting rehabilitation, health and social security of its members.

For providing participation of members in creating and performing drafted tasks of common interest, Societies have been established at Zagreb, Rijeka and Split and at Pula. The establishment of societies in other regions of SR Croatia is planned, too, where conditions exist.

In accordance with general social changes, the newly established Societies have united themselves on the basis of delegation into the Union of Societies of Sick People with Cerebral Palsy and Polio of SR Croatia, for the purpose of uniting work and activities. In establishing the Society, we have started from the fact that people affected with polio could, at least in some fields, help their cerebral palsied mates, and so the Society under the described name has arisen.

One of the basic tasks of the Union and its organisation is registering and gathering of the disabled, and data processing for the purpose of promoting, rehabilitation and protection, since, unfortunately, no one institution has precise data about the number, health and social status of our category of the disabled.

It is supposed that 20,000 people affected by cerebral



THE pictures above show spastic people in Yugoslavia taking part in some of the recreational, sporting and educational activities organised for them.

palsy and polio live in the territory of SR Croatia. The greater number are the cerebral palsied. According to free estimates of experts, and according to the Phelps datum — accepted in the world — it comes out that 7 out of 1,500 newly born children suffer from consequences of cerebral palsy. Through our activities we have succeeded in registering, up to now, a few thousands of the disabled in this category in SR Croatia, and this is the only data about this population.

The Union pays special attention to:

- Promoting medical, educational, vocational and social rehabilitation and employment.
- Observation and study of the legislative problems, and giving suggestions and undertaking measures for promoting legal protection.
- Initiating the expansion of institutions for medical, educational and social rehabilitation.
- Giving support in various forms to members in solving their needs.
- Organising social, cultural, sports-recreation and other activities; organising group recreation at the seaside, evening group parties, cultural performances, etc.
- Publicity and advertising intended to make known the Union's activities to the public and Union members, within which, together with the Union of the Physically Disabled and Association of People Sick with Neuromuscular Distrophy of SR Croatia, we issue a magazine "Novi koraci" (New Steps) which is dispatched to all members and institutions taking part in solving our problems.
- Developing co-ordination with the other socio-humanitarian organisations and socio-political groups, communes, bodies and services.

Our experts attend many international meetings devoted to solving problems of the disabled, especially of cerebral palsied people. We wish to develop a closer co-ordination with the International Cerebral Palsy Society, and with voluntary organisations for cerebral palsied people in other countries as well.

I send you my kindest regards in the name of the Union.

## Penitent 'sinners' help funds

POOR darts playing, swearing and mentioning other public houses are unforgivable sins at the Exchange pub, Southgate Street, Winchester.

But as a result of penalties paid by their customers, the Society's "Save a Baby" campaign is better off by a cheque for £250, recently presented to Mr E. G. Williment, Chairman of the Winchester and District Spastics Society.

## Bucks survey

THE South Bucks Spastics Society has got together with other local voluntary organisations in the area to produce a questionnaire aimed at estimating future care needs of handicapped people in the county.

The cost of the survey and its subsequent publication will be shared, and the scheme has the backing of the Mayors of Chesham, Amersham, Beaconsfield, High Wycombe and Marlow.

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SN June





**EVEN** baby Jessica was delighted with the news that mother, Mrs Jane Church, had won the Spastics Pool first dividend of £10,000 outright. Jane and husband Paul, are seen receiving their cheque from Charmian Mould (centre), a senior regional officer of The Spastics Society. The presentation took place at the Church's home in Valley View Road, Paulton.

## News about the Spastics Pool

**MRS G. Griggs**, at her home in Herne Bay, Kent, receiving a first dividend cheque for £5,000 from area supervisor, Mr Holman. Said Mrs Griggs: "The money has come at the right time, as it will pay for my house to be re-decorated."



**DURING** a wrestling tournament in Louth Town Hall, Les Kellett (left) took a breather to present a

sixth dividend cheque for £1,134 to Mr Ken Rudd, of St Bernards Close, Louth, Lincs. Keeping her hand on

the cheque is Mrs Rudd! Presentation arrangements were made by area supervisor, Mr Brian Miller (right).



A celebration party was held at the Plough and Chequers pub in Gillingham, where Mr Richard Tipple, of Lower Rainham Road, received a first dividend cheque for £10,000 from Irish International football player, Damien Richardson. Richard intends spending some of the money on a holiday.



**STEEL-WORKER**, Andrew Edwards and wife Barbara, of Deeside in Clwyd, were delighted to accept an invitation by area supervisor, Tom Charnley to visit the Deeside Leisure Centre.

During the course of the evening, comedian Joey

Kaye (left) took time off from his show to present the £1,428 dividend cheque to Andrew and Barbara. Said the happy couple, who have a six-year-old daughter: "We have been in the Pool for about six years and this is the first time we have won anything."



**MRS Laurie Lambert** at her home in Haverfordwest, Dyfed, receiving a first dividend cheque for £5,000 from the Mayor of Haverfordwest, Coun Catherine Cole.



**SEE** you at the local . . . was an invitation extended by collector Gwyn Thomas to first dividend winner, John Jenkins, of North Cornelly, Pyle, near

Bridgend. The reason was not just to exchange pleasantries, but to give Gwyn (left) the opportunity of presenting the £5,000 cheque to John.

## News in brief

**MERSEYBIKE '80**, a week of cycling activities on Merseyside in July, includes a special day of events for disabled people on Wednesday July 16. There will be races for physically and mentally handicapped youngsters on specially designed tricycles and also opportunities for blind people to ride on tandems with a sighted person steering.

There will be displays from cycle manufacturers as well as social events.

**Merseybike** is organised by the Merseyside Council for Voluntary Service, Inner Temple, Temple Lane, Liverpool L25RS. Tel: 051 277 3208.

**"A GUIDE to Southern England for the Disabled — Where To Stay, What To Do,"** contains details of accommodation, places of interest to visit, cinemas, theatres and public loos within Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

The guide is available from the Southern Tourist Board, Old Town Hall, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants. Price 40p plus 12p for postage and packing.

**ALL** housing authorities are required to have regard to the special needs of disabled people. "Housing the Disabled" is the account of a project in Torfaen, South Wales, which aimed to identify and meet the needs of over 1,400 disabled people in the local community.

"Housing the Disabled" by John Hunt and Lesley Hoyes is published by Torfaen Borough Council, and obtainable from Gwent House, Town Centre, Cwmbran, Gwent NP4 3XL. Price £3.95 plus 90p postage and package.

**THE** Disablement Income Group has a new series of booklets compiled by its Social Work Advisory Service. There are nine titles in all, explaining the various allowances available to disabled people and their families including: Attendance Allowance; Mobility Allowance; Housewives Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension; Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension; Sickness and Invalidity Benefit; Exceptional Circumstances Additions; Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970; Supplementary Benefit Appeal Tribunals and Invalid Care Allowance.

The whole series costs £2 plus postage, and individual copies of any one booklet can be bought for 25p plus 10p postage from the Disablement Income Group, Attlee House, Toynbee Hall, 28 Commercial Street, London E1 6LR.



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## Catching the eye of Princes



SPASTICS Society centres have been having a right royal time of it recently with meetings both formal and informal with Prince Philip and Prince Charles.

First Prince Philip paid a visit to the Wolverhampton Society's headquarters so that he could meet winners of his Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. He was introduced to Desmond Cox, who having already achieved a bronze and silver, will be the first of the trainees to gain a gold. Dane Clark has almost got his silver, Edward Dodd and Davinda Singh are working for their bronze and Stephen Tomlin has won his bronze.

While strategically placed wheelchairs caught Prince Charles' eye when he visited Croydon to open a new police station, children from St Margaret's School for Spastics, Coombe Road, gathered by the station entrance and so Prince Charles took time off from his official duties to come and have a chat.

Pictures by courtesy of the Express and Star, Wolverhampton and the Croydon Advertiser.



## Can you help Kenneth find his family?

Continued from Page 1

also the subject of a BBC award winning film.

Just as Joey Deacon was able to make himself understood to a fellow patient who wrote down the story, so Kenneth made

himself understood to a fellow Purdown patient, Norman Lewis. In spite of being blind in one eye and short sighted in the other, Norman wrote out Kenneth's story by hand. Then when Kenneth acquired his Possum in 1976, he was able to type out the story himself.

He was born in Polesworth, Staffordshire in 1926. His mother died when he was four, and Kenneth went to Barnardo's, first to Stepney Causeway, then to Tunbridge Wells where he lived until 1938.

Kenneth's childhood memories of days at Barnardo's are particularly vivid and he recalls by name many of the other children there.

In 1938 Kenneth went briefly to Barnardo's at Woodford Bridge, but by this time he was over 16. When war broke out he was returned to his Polesworth home. When his elderly father, an ex-colliery worker, became too frail to care for him, Kenneth was moved to Weston Hospital, Leamington Spa, and later transferred to Purdown

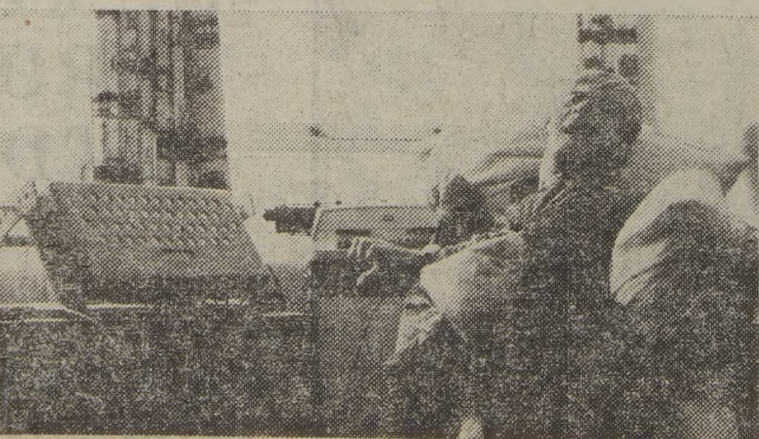
where he has been since 1959.

In 1976 a group of Purdown patients attended a MENCAP Rally at Tidworth where Kenneth heard news of a long lost relative, a niece called Jean, daughter of his brother-in-law Arthur Sibley, who used to live in Surrey. But he did not succeed in getting an address and so the contact remained elusive.

In spite of his restricted life, Kenneth is able to look back with compassion and without bitterness. He writes:

"There are times when I get really fed up, and think of what I've missed all my life, and what I've suffered that others haven't. But I don't like getting sorry for myself and usually soon cheer up."

"In some ways I'm better off than people who get strokes or crippled later in life: I have adapted to my handicap; it is difficult for them. There are lots of things in life that seem unfair, but there must be a meaning behind it; there's got to be. I used to get really uptight when people talked down to me as if I were a child or mental, but as I got older, I realised it was not really their fault. They were just going by appearances, and didn't realise what lay behind them."



HERE is Kenneth Jones, the man who is anxious to find any surviving relatives.

## Mass demo plan in battle to 'Save the Act'

"DON'T Let the Act be Hacked" is the battle cry of Act Now, the campaign in defence of the 1970 Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, whose supporters are planning a demonstration and mass lobby of Parliament this month.

At 12 noon on Wednesday, June 11, the Act Now demonstrators, many of whom will be disabled people in wheelchairs, will "march" on the Elephant and Castle, stronghold of the Department of Health

and Social Security. There the Act Now deputation will hand in letters of support from local and national organisations representing the disabled from all over the country. It is hoped that the Minister of State for the Disabled, Reginald Prentice, MP, will be able to receive the deputation in person. Then in the afternoon of the 11th, at 2.30 pm there will be a mass lobby at the Houses of Parliament when people participating in the rally will be meeting their MPs and declaring their support for the upholding of the aims of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, whose provisions are now under threat because of cuts in personal social services.

The Act Now rally is timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of Alf Morris' Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, which many people believe is already becoming little more than a piece of paper in the eyes of many local authorities.

At a recent conference organised by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation which is one of the organisations supporting Act Now along with The Spastics Society, Mr Alf Morris, MP, stressed the importance of individuals writing both to the Minister and also to their MPs concerning details of any local authorities defaulting on their obligations.



SEVEN-year-old Helen Watts, from Ormskirk, is the latest recruit to the Rufford Brownie Pack.

In spite of being spastic and unable to speak, Helen, who attends Moorfield Special School, in Preston, joins in all the activities on Brownie nights, with other members of the Gnomes' Six pushing her in her wheelchair.

The Rufford Brownies first took Helen to their hearts after doing a project on the Ellerslie Court Holiday Home in Southport. "To make it more interesting, I told them about Helen whom I knew through the local Trident Spastics Club," says Acting Brown Owl Mrs Beth Moss. "It's been really touching to see Helen come along. The actual enrolment made me want to have a little weep. It was really something."

Picture by the Ormskirk Advertiser

## They danced so others might ski

HALF a century rolled away at the Park Lane Hotel in May when a "Thirties" Ball was held in aid of the Society's Uphill Ski Club.

The Uphill Ski Club was formed four years ago by Harley Street paediatrician Dr David Morris to enable young spastic people to go skiing in the Alps and has proved immensely successful.

In a glittering recreation of the pre-war world, ball goers danced to the strains of Cole Porter tunes with an orchestra led by Tiny Winters.

One of the highlights of the evening was a stunning fashion parade staged by Sukie Thomas of original "Thirties" model gowns.

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## A good read—and a good idea for funds

REGULAR customers to the Hartshorn family's newsagency in Tamworth Lane, Mitcham, have hearts of gold and they have proved it with pound notes and silver for the Society's Centre in Croydon.

Soon after Mrs Margaret Hartshorn's daughter, Barbara, who is spastic, had been collecting for a door knock appeal, a customer brought in a load of unwanted paper back books. Mrs Hartshorn thought they might fetch a few pence to add to the sum Barbara had already collected, and so put them on display in their shop alongside a Spastics Society collecting box, and an invitation to take one in return for a donation.

They were an instant success, with customers buying books, making donations and bringing fresh paper backs to add to the supply. "One man selected four books and put a pound in Barbara's box. People have been fantastically kind and I'm thrilled

led to bits," said Mrs Hartshorn. "In six weeks we have collected over £50." Barbara, who lives with her mother in their home opposite the shop, says "It is a lot easier fund raising this way than doing a door knock!"

## SPASTICS NEWS

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